

On page 10 third paragraph please amend the paragraph to read:

a10 The guidewire 10 can be made with lengths of preferably between 20 cm and 500cm and between diameters of 0.005 inches and 0.040 inches with a coil length preferably of between 0.5cm and 100cm.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and enter new claims 12-37 as follows:

sub 12 12. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures comprising a titanium molybdenum alloy wire having approximately 78% titanium, 11.5% molybdenum, 6% zinc and 4.5% tin by weight.

all 13. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 12 wherein,
the length of titanium molybdenum alloy wire has a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end being of a smaller diameter and therefore softer than the proximal end.

14. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 13 having,
a gradient of softness between the distal end and the proximal end with the distal end being softer.

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Ev 15. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as
in claim 13 having,

a taper of the diameter between the distal end and the proximal end with the distal end being smaller.

16. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 13 having,

a distal end having a coil attached, with the coil touching a distal tip such that the coil provides springiness at the distal tip and touches the distal tip to prevent kinking of the coil.

17. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 13 having,

all a distal tip on the end of the distal end to prevent the distal end from penetrating tissue in the wall of a passageway.

18. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 12 wherein,

the guidewire has a polymer coating for making the guidewire slipperier.

19. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 12 wherein,

the guidewire has a hydrophilic coating.

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20. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures comprising a titanium molybdenum alloy wire having approximately between about 75 % and about 83 % titanium, between about 8 % and about 14 % molybdenum, between about 4 % and about 8 % zinc and between about 2 % and about 6 % tin by weight.

21. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 20 wherein,

the length of titanium molybdenum alloy wire has a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end being of a smaller diameter and therefore softer than the proximal end.

22. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 20 having,

all
a gradient of softness between the distal end and the proximal end with the distal end being softer.

23. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 20 having,

a taper of the diameter between the distal end and the proximal end with the distal end being smaller.

24. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 20 having,

a distal end having a coil attached, with the coil touching a distal tip such that the coil provides springiness at the distal tip and touches the distal tip to prevent kinking of the coil.

25. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 21 having,

a distal tip on the end of the distal end to prevent the distal end from penetrating tissue in the wall of a passageway.

26. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 20 wherein,

the guidewire has a polymer for making the guidewire slipperier.

all 27. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 20 wherein,

the guidewire has a hydrophilic coating.

542 BY 28. (new) - A method of making a guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures comprising:

obtaining a titanium molybdenum alloy wire having a composition of approximately 78% titanium, 11.5% molybdenum, 6% zinc and 4.5% tin by weight

grinding the distal end to make a smaller diameter,

attaching a coil to the distal end, and

attaching a distal tip to the distal end.

29. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 28 with the further step of,

tapering the distal end to provide a gradient of softness.

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30. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 28 with the further step of,

heat treating the distal end to provide a gradient of softness.

31. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 28 with the further step of,

coating the guidewire with a polymer to make the guidewire slipperier.

32. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 28 with the further step of,

coating the guidewire with a hydrophilic coating.

Sub 33. (new) A method of making a guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures comprising:

obtaining a titanium molybdenum alloy wire having approximately between about 75 % and about 83 % titanium, between about 8 % and about 14 % molybdenum, between about 4 % and about 8 % zinc and between about 2 % and about 6 % tin by weight,

grinding the distal end to make a smaller diameter,

attaching a coil to the distal end, and

attaching a distal tip to the distal end.

34. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 33 with the further step of,

tapering the distal end to provide a gradient of softness.

35. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 33 with the further step of,

heat treating the distal end to provide a gradient of softness.

36. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 33 with the further step of,

heat treating the distal end to provide a gradient of softness.

all 37. (new) A guidewire for inserting into body passageways during medical procedures as in claim 33 with the further step of,

coating the guidewire with a polymer to make the guidewire slipperier.

REMARKS

The examiner objected to the disclosure due to informalities.

All of the informalities listed by the examiner were corrected as suggested.

In the office action received the examiner did not comment on claims 7 and 8.

In a telephone interview with the examiner on 5/1/02 the examiner stated that claims 7 and 8 would be allowable since the composition of the wire was not found in the prior art.

The applicant has rewritten the claims. Dependent claims 7 and 8 are now redrafted as independent claims 12 and 20. Claims 13-19 are dependent on allowable claim 12 and claims 21-27 are dependent on allowable claim 20. These claims are old claims 2-6 redrafted as dependent claims on allowable claims 12 and 20 and two new claims to the polymer coating and the hydrophilic coating in new claims 18, 19 and 26,27.